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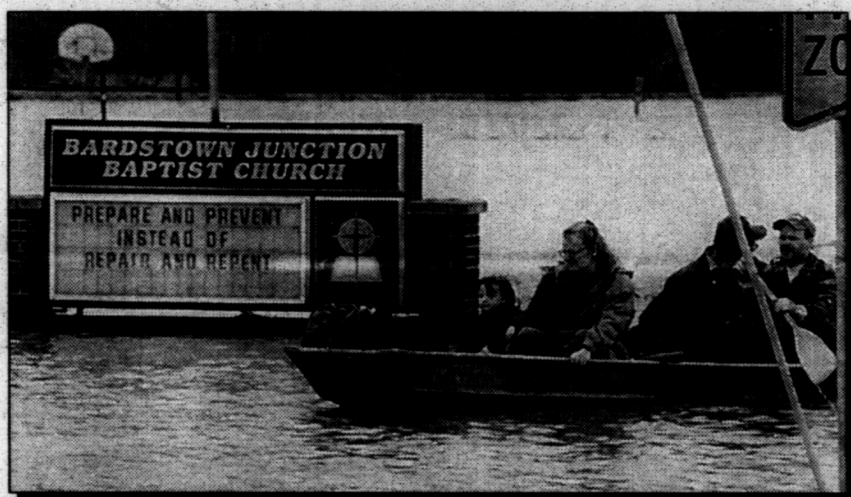
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LONG COMMUTE — A Bullitt County, Ky., family crosses flooded fields and roads in front of an inundated Baptist church. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Happy Easter from the staff of the Baptist Record!

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Baptist churches endure disastrous flood

MACEO, Ky. (ABP) — The pews at Dawson Memorial Church near Maceo, Ky., have survived three floods before, but the Flood of '97 may have done them in, Pastor Steve Boyd said.

"Those old pews are the originals," he said by telephone March 5, as water in the church sanctuary stood four feet deep and was still rising.

"They went through the 1937 flood, when they were found out in a field afterward, the 1945 flood and the 1964 flood, but I don't think they'll make it through this one," he said.

near Frankfort. Water also filled the church's old sanctuary built in 1817, which is now used for Sunday School.

The flood ruined pews and carpet in the new building and most office furniture, said Evelyn Gardner, business manager and lifelong member of the church.

Pews in the old sanctuary were solid wood and may be salvageable, she said. All hymnals in both buildings were lost.

Tornadoes in Ark. and flash flooding in six other states killed at least 61 people and left hundreds homeless.

As usual, Southern Baptists were quick on the scene, working alongside the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide relief to disaster victims.

Disaster-relief workers from Ky., Mo., N.C., and Tenn. prepared 122,000 meals and helped flood victims "mud out" in 11 cities in Kentucky.

Two weeks into the flood recovery effort, Ky. Brotherhood Director Bob Simpkins worried that volunteers might not last as long as the damage.

"One of the greatest concerns I have is that my people are wearing down," Simpkins said.

"Normally we have a sufficient volunteer bank to handle it when we're working in one or two given sites. In this one, we're working the whole state, and it spreads us out so thin," he said.

Dale Meehan, crew chief for Mo. Baptists' feeding team, drove 13 hours to get to Ky., he

said, for one reason: "I want to be able to find people and lead people to Christ."

Meehan recalled talking to one resident of Falmouth, a Catholic, who remarked, "I don't see how anybody could stand to go through this without Christ."

Meehan agreed. "I guess that's one of the reasons I keep going," he said.

American Baptist Men dispatched volunteers and a disaster relief trailer to Cincinnati.

Two American Baptist churches in the area were hit by flooding. Neither church was seriously damaged, but ten American Baptist families were forced from their homes and were staying with friends or relatives, said Allen Abbott, executive director of ABMen in Valley Forge, Pa.

ABMen disaster relief will help 500 families — the most comprehensive effort to date for ABMen, Abbott said.

Just as life began to return to normal along the Ohio River, the National Weather Service (NWS) warned March 19 that melting heavy snows in the northern



SPAGHETTI, ANYONE? — Bill Stowers, member of Shively (Ky.) Baptist Church, pours spaghetti sauce into a pot in southern Louisville. Stowers was a part of five disaster-relief teams in Ky. responding to the state's worst flooding in 30 years. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Midwest could cause the highest floods in 150 years this spring.

"You're going to see hundreds of square miles under water," Elbert Friday of NWS told "USA Today" newspaper.

No snow is on the ground in the Ohio Valley but the ground is saturated and streams and rivers are still high. Heavy rain could bring more flooding there, NWS warned.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

MC adds Miss. trustees

Is comet Christmas star?

'Angel' saved missionary

Holmes CC sees revival

God on the Internet? Might be.

God used the burning bush to call Moses, but would he use the Internet to communicate with Southern Baptists? He might.

When Joe Bruce began to think about Iceland and Greenland as possible Southern Baptist mission fields, he asked Frank Johnson to check "chat rooms" on the Internet to see if anyone out there in cyberspace shared their interest.

Bruce directs the Foreign Mission Board's (FMB) work in Middle America and Canada. Johnson is his associate.

Johnson found plenty of interest. He also learned that although 90% of Icelanders claim membership in the state church, a meager 1.5% attend services regularly.

Bruce and Johnson decided to visit both countries to survey the needs and opportunities for mission work.

"We arrived in Iceland and immediately began meeting people," Bruce said. "Every one of the contacts we made within the small evangelical community repeated the Macedonian call, 'Please come over and help us,'" Bruce said.

FMB trustees voted in December to explore opening work in Iceland and Greenland.

"It seems that from all these seemingly 'coincidental' circumstances, God is moving us to join him in what he wants to do in Iceland and Greenland. We are excited about the possibilities for ministry there," Bruce said.

Looking back

10 years ago

"There's no room for spectators here," says Don Creel, pastor of Bayside Church, a mission of First Church, Bay St. Louis. "We're trying to mold together a team to do something for the Lord." Bayside enrolls 113 in VBS, with a daily attendance of more than 80.

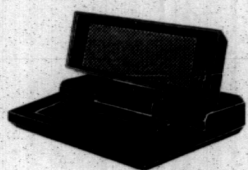
20 years ago

Frances Smira of Jackson is re-elected president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) at the annual WMU convention at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Caroline Kee of Woodville is re-elected vice president.

50 years ago

First Church, Columbus, rejoices in the great spiritual awakening that has visited its members and the city. Bron Clifford of Philadelphia, Penn., and Los Angeles, Calif., is the evangelist for the campaign that results in 149 additions — 79 by profession of faith and baptism.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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What's so hard to believe about Easter?

We were alternately fascinated and shocked a few weeks ago to learn that a lamb had been cloned from another of its species — a living, breathing, identical genetic copy manufactured in a laboratory without the aid of a mother or father sheep.

We weren't actually there to see it accomplished; we merely accepted as truth what we read and heard from a distance.

Tiny, microscopic excrement on an ancient rock of questionable origin is offered as proof that life once existed on Mars.

We weren't actually there to see it accomplished; we merely accepted as truth what we read and heard from a distance.

Around the time of Easter almost 2,000 years ago, the Son of God willingly suffered a cruel death on a Roman cross as blood atonement for our sins; was resurrected three days later; and ascended to Heaven to take his place at the right hand of God.

We weren't there to actually see it accomplished; therefore, we cannot accept it as truth.

What?

It could be amusing, these games we play to keep from admitting there is a God who yearns so deeply to draw us to him that he would sacrifice his only begotten Son on our behalf.

Amusing, that is, if our eternal salvation didn't depend on our acknowledgement of that fact.

Despite our near-universal gullibility for any fanciful idea that comes along, many of us choose to deny the truth of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

During the observance of Easter over the past couple of years, just about every major American news magazine trumpeted such cover stories as "In Search of the Real Jesus," and "Who Was Jesus?" The television networks weren't far behind.

Christians, I am assured, would be more than willing to point them toward the answer if only they would receive it.

One of the most absurd attempts of all time to deny the diety of Christ, however, has to be the so-called Jesus Seminar.

According to the April 8, 1996 issue of "U.S. News and World Report," the Jesus

Seminar is composed of about 50 American religion professors who vote with colored beads whether they believe various Bible accounts of the life of Jesus actually occurred.

Founder Robert Funk said in the magazine, "Jesus was perhaps the first stand-up Jewish comic," and starting a new religion "would have been the farthest thing from his mind."

Under such impressive leadership, the Jesus Seminar has concluded that no more than 20% of the sayings and even fewer of the deeds biblically ascribed to Jesus are authentic.

Among the events of Jesus' life concluded by the group to be untrue are:

- ◆ The Lord's Prayer.
- ◆ Christ's statements from the cross.
- ◆ any claims to divinity by Jesus.
- ◆ the virgin birth.
- ◆ virtually all of Jesus' miracles.
- ◆ the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

Ah, the resurrection. Those who would deny Jesus know Easter is one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith, worthy of unrelenting attack if the diety of Christ is ever to be swept away.

The Apostle Paul understood that, strongly refuting the resurrection naysayers of his day in 1 Cor. 15:12-34.

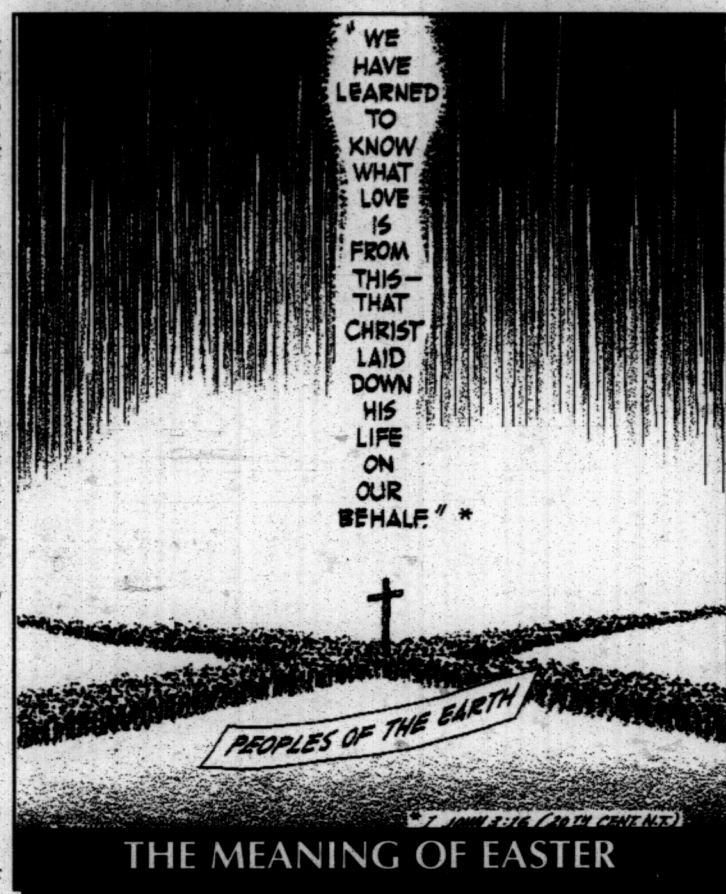
If you believe in cloned lambs, Martian life, and dinosaurs, what's so hard to believe about the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

During this Easter season, remember that Jesus gave you the right to talk directly with God about anything that concerns you.

If you have doubts about the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ — and it seems people like to raise those doubts during Easter

observance — study your Bible and listen for God's reassurance as you pray.

Then you'll know in your heart that it's true.



Resurrection Reading

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Knechtle, Cliffe. *Give Me an Answer that Satisfies My Heart and My Mind*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1986.

Morris, Frank. *Who Moved the Stone?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1958.

Moule, Handley Carr Glyn and James Orr. *The Resurrection of Christ*. Minneapolis: Klock and Klock Christian Publishers, 1980.

McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. *Answers to Tough Questions Skeptics Ask about the Christian Faith*. San Bernardino: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1980.

McDowell, Josh. *More Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Arrowhead Springs: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1975.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



Easter is about action

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

Iremember Easter Sundays of days gone by, when my brothers and I would be identically dressed in black pants, white sports coats and ties.

I hated wearing a tie. Mother would line us up like stair steps underneath the pecan tree in the front yard, pull out the Kodak, and snap a photo of us, onion heads and all.

Grandmother always had a new hat, and my sisters got new dresses. For a few minutes, at least, we looked good.

Mother was lucky, though, if I stayed neat all the way to church.

To me, Easter was all about getting church over with so I could get home to hide the Easter eggs over again and play with whatever toys the Easter bunny brought me this year.

As far as I knew, the old rabbit never kept a list to check on twice, which is just as well because being good through Christmas was about all I could manage in one year.

I don't remember when Easter

became more important than that to me, but as the years have gone by every Easter brings a new awareness of the singular significance of that day for all of human history.

A few years ago, this was brought home in a dramatic fashion. A television crew in Alabama responded to a call by a despondent and drunk man who had lost his job and was threatening to set himself on fire.

Upon their arrival, the man followed through on his threat, dousing himself with gasoline and striking a match.

The videotographer and reporter had to make a tough decision. They could fulfill their media role by recording the event as impassive observers. Or, they could fulfill a humanitarian role by rescuing the man.

For 36 seconds they chose the former, videotaping this brun- ing man for the evening news.

Then one of them had a change of heart, but it was almost too late. Had it not been for a volunteer fireman who arrived on the scene, the poor man would have died.

What would you have done?

While it is easy for us to judge these reporters for their callous- ness I urge you to think first.

Are we not as guilty as they? If we who hold the keys to eternal life sit passively by while others we know move toward a certain damnation, then we are as guilty of callousness as those before mentioned reporters. To save a life, action is required.

That is what Easter is all about. While humanity proceed- ed to set itself ablaze in the fires of sin, God acted. He sent his Son, the blameless Lamb of God, to rescue us from ourselves.

How deep is the gap between life and death, heaven and hell? A heart beat, a single gasp of air?

For 36 seconds these re- porters let a man burn. Some people do not have 36 seconds. They need Jesus now!

Will you sit passively on the sidelines watching, or will you act?

Easter is not about rabbits, new clothes or colored eggs. Easter is about action!

MC adds four Mississippi trustees to board

The Mississippi College (MC) board of trustees has named four Mississippians to the 24-member board that governs the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton. The new trustees are:

◆ Larry Franklin of

Grenada, president of Bain Manufacturing, Inc., in Grenada.

He is a member of First Church, Grenada, where he serves as a deacon and teaches a youth Sunday School class.

◆ J.L. Holloway of Jackson,

chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Ham Marine, Inc., in Pascagoula; chairman of the steering committee for Ham/PMB Bechtel Joint Venture in Houston, Texas; president and CEO of State Street Properties in Jackson; and director of Delta Health Group in Pensacola, Fla.

Holloway, who also founded Steelplex, Inc., in Pascagoula, is a deacon at Country Woods Church, Jackson.

◆ Paul G. Moak Jr. of Jackson, president of Paul Moak Pontiac, Inc., in Jackson; and chairman of the board of Paul Moak of Ridgeland, Inc., in Ridgeland.

Moak is a deacon at First Church, Jackson.

◆ William A. Vail of Oxford, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, and a graduate of MC.

Current officers of the MC board of trustees are Greenville businessman Harry Vickery, chairman; First Church, Biloxi, pastor Frank Gunn, vice-chairman; and WorldCom, Inc., founder Bernie Ebbers of Brookhaven, secretary.



Franklin



Moak



Holloway



Vail

Eagle Award presentation



Ken Marler (center) of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) presents an Eagle Award to North Batesville Church pastor Lee Hudson and his wife Olivia (right), and minister of music Don Brummett and his wife Evelyn, at the Institute for Equipping Churches Beyond 2000 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison. The Eagle Award is the only award given by BSSB to churches. It is a recognition of significant growth in Sunday School. In three years North Batesville showed a net gain of 182 in Sunday School enrollment; went from 22 to 150 average attendance; grew from 6 to 17 units; increased from 8 to 35 workers; and developed a prospect file of over 200 names. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Adult lodge site dedicated at Garaywa

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

On Monday, March 17, just prior to the opening of the 118th annual Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Convention at First Church, Clinton, people from all over the state gathered under a tent at Camp Garaywa in Clinton to dedicate the site for the new adult lodge.

Dell Scoper of Laurel, chairperson of the Garaywa adult lodge building committee, referring to Christian psychologist Paul Tourner who wrote about the need to find one's place said, "Garaywa gave me a sense of place. Garaywa has given us a place to stand, a place for missions in our Mississippi Baptist Family."

The lodge will be a two-story, hotel-like facility for adults with 30 rooms, meeting space, and kitchen facilities. During the WMU convention it was announced that

the official name of the lodge will be Patterson Place, in honor of Marjean Patterson, long-time executive director of Mississippi WMU.

The fundraising campaign for the lodge, projected to cost \$1.5 million, has already secured \$547,842 in advance gifts and pledges, according to Joan Tyler, state chairperson for the Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands committee.

Scoper said it was one year ago that the building committee first met to begin plans for the building. Larry Sones of Brandon was retained in June as the architect for the project.

Ground breaking is planned for September or October 1997, Scoper said.

The site dedication comes after a two-year study which determined the need for a hotel-like facility suitable for adults, Scoper told the near capacity crowd under the tent erected next to the

planned site for the lodge.

"(Former Miss. WMU executive director) Edwina Robinson had the crazy idea that a mission camp should be owned and operated by Mississippi WMU," Scoper said. "It was her magnificent obsession."

"Hundreds of Mississippi missionaries who have served on every continent of the planet have been to this place," she added.

"We need this lodge so that we can pray for the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers unto the harvest," Scoper said.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and his wife Bobbye — both native Mississippians — attended the site dedication, along with Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director.

In other action at the WMU convention, Rebecca Williams was elected state president. Williams was elected to a one year term, but is traditionally re-elected three times for a total of four years.

She is the wife of Billy Williams, pastor of First Church, Gautier. They have a son and daughter-in-law who were appointed first-time missionaries to India this past year.

Roberta Johnston of Brookhaven was elected vice president. Kay Hodges of Hernando was elected secretary.

A new video entitled "Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands" was premiered at the convention and is available to churches as part of the fundraising effort.

The convention heard from the Rankins; O'Brien; Wanda Lee, national WMU president; Betty Jo Lewis, wife of former Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis; and outgoing state WMU president Sandra Nash.

For more information on the lodge project or to secure the video, contact WMU at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



HAND IN HAND — Members of the Garaywa lodge building committee at the site dedication were (from left) Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU; Martha Ellen Marler, Forest; Joan Tyler, Collins; Sharon Neff, Arcola; Dell Scoper, chairperson, Laurel; Peggy Huey, Hattiesburg; Sue Tatum, Yazoo City; and Sandra Nash, Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Rory Lee moving to La. College

Rory Lee, president and chief operating officer of William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, resigned March 25 to accept the top job at Louisiana College in Pineville, La.

Lee, who went to WCC in February 1996 after a 25-year career at Mississippi College in Clinton, will be president and chief executive officer of the Baptist-affiliated school.

No other details were available by publication deadline.

Hale-Bopp: could comet be Christmas star?

By David T. Dockery III
Mississippi Bureau of Geology

CNN reporter to visit MC

Wolf Blitzer, senior White House correspondent for Cable News Network (CNN), is scheduled to speak in Swor Auditorium on the Mississippi College (MC) campus in Clinton at 7:30 p.m. on April 3.

In addition to the White House beat, Blitzer has served as CNN's military affairs correspondent at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and was a member of the award-winning team that covered the Gulf War for CNN.

Admission is free, but reservations are required. To reserve tickets, contact Ruth Ainsworth in the MC Dean of Students office at (601) 925-3359.

"Lights in the firmament of the heaven," according to Genesis 1:14 (KJV), are "for signs, and for seasons..."

So what do we make of the Hale-Bopp Comet, the most spectacular comet of our century? Does this heavenly wonder mean nothing?

In the March 12, 1997, issue of "USA Today", Paul Hoversten wrote that millennium fans see the Hale-Bopp Comet as a sign of good luck for the next 1,000 years, while others say it portends the end of the world as described in Revelation.

Note also that the last time this comet made an appearance was 2,000 B.C., when Babylonian astronomers were just charting the courses of the five known planets.

Also, if the true birth of Christ were three B.C., the comet marks the end of the Second Millennium A.D.

Hugh Ross (1993, p. 3) in "Journey to Truth," said the word selected in the original text for the Christmas star, if it were a natural phenomenon, could have described a star, a planet, a comet, an asteroid, a meteor, or an exploding star (a nova or supernova).

Ross favored a recurring nova. However, if it were a comet, then the Hale-Bopp Comet illustrates how wise men in the East could see a star in the east and follow it west to Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The Hale-Bopp Comet first appeared in the eastern sky before sunrise and has moved closer to the horizon each morning. An ancient stargazer would realize that such a comet would reappear in the western sky just after sunset (as has the Hale-Bopp Comet).

The magi could calculate the western rising and travel toward that spot. The comet would continue to rise in the western sky each night until it stood above their destination.

The Hale-Bopp Comet has a sharply-defined, bright coma that resembles a star and a readily visible tail. It will be brightest on April 1st (that could be some April Fools Day).



Dockery

The most famous comet, Halley's Comet, appears every 75 years. It appeared in 70 A.D. before the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Romans.

Josephus (as translated by Wm. Whiston, p. 848) saw the comet as a sign from God against the city's Jewish defenders and described it as "a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city..."

It also appeared in 451 A.D. when Attila the Hun and his hordes were defeated by the Romans and Visigoths at the battle of Châlons, and again in 1066 A.D. when William of Normandy conquered England.

The brightness of the Hale-Bopp Comet has been compared to the Great Comet of

1811. What important event occurred on this date?

A number of events could be cited, but one was very important to the Mississippi Valley Region: the great New Madrid Earthquake of December 16, 1811.

Earthquakes continued in this region with strong shocks occurring again on January 23 and February 7 of 1812. Some of these shocks made church bells ring as far away as Boston.

The earthquake risk is so great along the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the central United States that it is constantly monitored by a network of seismographs.

The most famous prediction of an earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone was by independent scientist Iben Browning of New Mexico.

He warned of a possible strong earthquake to occur on December 3, 1990. The earthquake never happened, but Browning's warning caused considerable disruption and expense to the region in unnecessary precautions.

Therefore, it is important to point out here that this is no earthquake prediction. There is no scientific connection between the appearance of comets and earthquakes.

In fact, all the above correlations of events with appearances of Halley's Comet (as can be found in encyclopedias and other sources) were made only with the luxury of hindsight.

So for those who wonder at the meaning of such things as the Hale-Bopp Comet, we'll have to sit back and see what the year brings.

Dockery is a member of Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas.

Foreign missions offering could set fourth record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Projections show Southern Baptists last year likely handed the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions its greatest annual increase since 1988.

Calculations from early indicators predict a \$4.5 million, or 5.06%, increase from \$89 million in 1995.

It would be the fourth consecutive rise after a plateau in the early 1990s. The collective

growth since 1992 amounts to \$12.5 million.

The projected receipts would provide about \$2.5 million for overseas capital spending needs such as new construction and vehicles, and \$91 million for the board's overseas operating budget, which primarily provides missionary support.

Last fall, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) trustees approved a 1997 budget of \$205.5 million based in part on \$94 million from the 1996 Lottie Moon offering and \$72.5 million from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

Built into the 1997 financial plan is expected expansion of the foreign missions program, especially in harvest areas such as Eastern Europe where gospel response is accelerating, and in "The Last Frontier," where few people have access to the gospel.

Last year FMB appointed 590 overseas mission workers for assignments of two years or more, a record number of new workers in a year's time.

The annual number of new workers has been rising steadily for several years.

Southern Baptists will celebrate their participation in world missions "when we gath-

er one day around God's throne with people from all the tribes, tongues and nations of the world," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union.

"We are grateful to the millions of Southern Baptists who gave of their financial resources and focused their prayers on our missionaries, on Christians in the areas they serve, and for the salvation of the lost worldwide," said O'Brien, whose missions education agency organized the first Lottie Moon offering in 1888.

Southern Baptists actually close the books on the 1996 offering May 31.

The annual March projection, historically reliable as an estimate, is based partly on information from Baptist conventions in 14 states.

Thirteen of these states are showing increases in their Lottie Moon receipts, and the other is down only .15%.

The offering is generally collected in churches during December. It is expected to fund nearly half (47%) of the board's budget. Besides the Cooperative Program (36%), other sources include investment income (8%), hunger and relief receipts (3%), designated income (2%), and 4% from other sources.

New SS writers to begin April 6

Sunday School lesson writers for the second quarter of 1997, beginning on Sunday, April 6, are:

◆ Becky Briscoe Bennett of Blue Mountain, writing the Life and Work series.

◆ Paul Blanchard of Louisville, writing the Family Bible series.

◆ Greg McBride of Pass Christain, writing the Explore the Bible series.

Bennett has been Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College since 1979. A native of Oxford, Bennett is a member of Chalybeate Church, Benton-Tippah Association. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, earning both



Bennett

the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Education degrees. She and her minister-husband Jack reside in Walnut.

Paul Blanchard is Director of Missions for Winston Association. He came to Winston from Eulaton First Church of Anniston, Al.

Blanchard previously pastored five other churches in Mississippi. A native of Drew, he is a graduate of Mississippi Delta Community College, Delta State University and Southwestern Seminary. He also holds a doctorate from Southern Baptist Institute for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Fla.

Blanchard is married to the former Susan Nicholass of

Oxford. They have two children.

Gregory J. McBride is pastor of Kittiwake Church, Pass Christain. A native of Gulfport, he has degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary, including the Doctor of Philosophy degree. McBride previously served as an adjunct professor of Old and New Testament at William Carey College (WCC) and as BSU director at the WCC gulf coast campus. He and his wife, the former Angela Elizabeth Smith of Sand Hill, have two sons.

Sunday School writers for "The Baptist Record" rotate every three months.



McBride

Last HMB chief charges Metro Association

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Larry Lewis, the last president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board (HMB), challenged members of Metro Association, Jackson, to keep pushing toward the Great Commission at the March 4 associational missions banquet at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

"We dare not take a mandate of our Lord as if it is of no consequence," Lewis said. "This was our Lord's last request. We dare not forget it."

Lewis stepped down as the last president of HMB last year to work with Mission America as a national facilitator for Celebrate Jesus 2000.

The HMB is to merge with the SBC Radio and Television Commission and the Brotherhood Commission to form the North American Mission Board in June 1997.

Celebrate Jesus 2000 is a plan to launch the largest evangelistic effort in history in 1999.

Celebrate Jesus 2000 resulted from a visit by evangelist Billy Graham to HMB headquarters in Atlanta in 1994.

Lewis prayed about what to say to the famous evangelist. "God spoke to me right in the shower," Lewis said.

"I told Graham he would be the logical person to call a gathering of the leaders of every evangelistic group in America to pray and plan a 1999 central crusade to be broadcast by satellite to the whole nation and the world," Lewis recalled.

Graham agreed. The next year, 167 leaders came to Wheaton, Ill. and voted unani-

mously to begin the effort. "Nothing like it has ever before been attempted," Lewis said.

Southern Baptists cannot accomplish the Great Commission alone, he said.

"If one denomination could bring revival to America, who would get the glory?" Lewis asked.

"Hand in hand we can take the Gospel to everyone. Every church should be a world mission center," Lewis said to the capacity crowd at Alta Woods. "Missions is not simply crossing the sea; missions is seeing the cross."

Lewis said there are an estimated 184 million lost people in America. "Only India and Indonesia have more lost," he added.

"Ours is a nation that has all but repudiated the Gospel," Lewis said.

Lewis praised the work of the staff of 350 at HMB headquarters and the work of 4,857 missionaries in the U.S., Canada and U.S. territories.

"Three-quarters of our mission staff are church planters in some fashion or another," Lewis pointed out.

Lewis also emphasized the importance of the Cooperative Program, which makes up 37% of the annual HMB budget.

"The Cooperative Program is not a budget line, it is a life line," he said.

"If you think of the Cooperative Program as just a budget item you might be tempted to cut it. We could not have over 4,000 missionaries overseas and over 4,000 at home if it wasn't for the support of Southern Baptists," Lewis said.



TOWARD THE GREAT COMMISSION — Eddie Hamilton (left), Director of Missions for Metro Association, talks with former HMB president Larry Lewis at the March 4 metro association missions banquet at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Lewis placed strong emphasis on starting new churches. From 1970 to 1990, the population of the U.S. grew 13%, but the SBC grew only 7%, he pointed out.

"We started more new churches than any other denomination in the U.S. Even so, we are not keeping up," Lewis said.

"If we start 1,000 new churches a year, for the next 20 years, we would only place congregations in communities which we have identified that need churches now," he said.

Fifty percent of the population of the U.S. lives in the 50 largest cities, while only 20% of SBC churches are in those cities, Lewis pointed out.

"We have a great challenge," Lewis said.

On the positive side, Lewis noted he is seeing signs of spiritual renewal all over America.

"I see people praying and yearning for revival like I've never seen in 40 years," he said.

"I am praying for a fourth great awakening," Lewis said.

Dallas SBC child care registration available

DALLAS (BP) — Registration is now being accepted for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting on June 17-19 in Dallas.

A registration form is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto Place, Dallas, TX 75201, Attention: Pat Gilbert.

Included with the registra-

tion form will be sessions available and medical forms.

Child care fees will be \$8 per session. Each registration form must be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of 50% of the anticipated cost.

Parents are advised to register promptly; registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Preschool child care will be held in the Dallas Convention Center, site of the annual meeting.

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July 2-12 • 11 days • Ottawa • Toronto • Thousand Island Cruise • Niagara Falls • \$899	June 17-28 • 12 days • Newfoundland • Nova Scotia • Prince Edward Island • New Brunswick • \$1499	Aug. 6-23 • 18 days • New Zealand • Australia • Great Barrier Reef • Deluxe • \$3498
CANADIAN DREAMS	AUTUMN SUNSETS	SOUTH AMERICA
Aug 2-16 • 15 days • Canadian Rockies • Yellowstone • Colorado Rockies • Badlands Nat'l Park • Boys Town • \$1199	Oct 8-17 • 10 days Jim and Joy Yates, Escorts • Colors in Nova Scotia • Prince Edward Island • New Brunswick • New England • \$1199	Aug. 19-30 • 12 days • Chile • Argentina • Iguassu Falls • Paraguay • Brazil • \$2445
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1. His love gives us peace.

This is his promise:

"Perfect love casts out fear."
(1 John 4:18) When we ask Christ into our lives, his love chases away fear.

2. His promise of eternal life gives us peace.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23) God provides eternal life through the death and resurrection of his Son.

3. His promise to walk with us through life gives us peace.

Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus extends his promise of peace to us, but we must respond by accepting him as the missing piece in our lives.

You can make that commitment today by, (1) admitting you need God, (2) confessing your sins to him, and (3) by faith, receiving Christ as Lord.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

BRANSON, MO CONDO FOR RENT

3BR, 3 bath CONDO. Rent thru owner and save. Ideal for family or couples. Golf, swimming and fishing on location. 39 Music shows, Silver Dollar City and Bass Pro Shop nearby. 2 King, 1 Queen bed, Queen sleeper sofa, recliners, AC, 4 TVs, VCR, towels and linens furnished, washer, dryer & fully equipped kitchen. For information call Henry Riser (601) 857-5906.

Wounded missionary helped by 'angel'

DURRES, Albania (ABP) — Debbie Ayers had her Bible in her hand when a blow like an "iron skillet hitting a dinner bell" knocked her to the ground.

"I may have momentarily lost consciousness," the 45-year-old Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) missionary recalled later.

"I didn't know if I'd been mugged or what, but I knew my name, and I knew I was down and needed help," she said.

Twenty yards away, missionary Bert Ayers saw his wife fall and ran to her amid chaos and gunfire in the Albanian port city of Durres on March 13.

Nine CBF mission personnel and seven children had made perilous trips to Durres to seek evacuation.

Ayers cradled his wife and tried in vain to stop the blood gushing from the back of her head. Then, with the help of a Mennonite missionary, he

loaded her into a car to drive to a hospital.

Suddenly, an Albanian man stepped calmly out of the every-man-for-himself melee surrounding them and offered to show them the way.

The Mennonite missionary drove. Ayers held his wife and tried to suppress the blood flow.

The Albanian stranger, who remains a mystery to the missionaries to this day, navigated what they recall as "a very strange path."

He guided them quickly and daringly through a series of turns and shortcuts that they say "didn't look like places we could go."

They made it each time, trimming many minutes and a lot of bumpy road off the high-speed dash to the hospital.

Medical personnel at the hospital stopped the bleeding before too much blood was lost.

An Albanian doctor said a

bullet entered the back of Debbie Ayers' head, burrowed under her scalp for about an inch, and then exited with only a glancing blow to the skull.

"You're hard-headed," he commented.

"Yes," she replied with a grin. "Just like Albanians. I guess that makes me a sister."

The doctor laughed, maybe for the first time that day, as he fought desperate conditions at the besieged hospital with no electricity.

Debbie Ayers' sense of humor has remained intact although she, her husband, and three children still recoil at the thought of the horror leading up to their eventual evacuation to Italy.

She does not laugh at mention of the stranger who has not been seen since.

As suddenly as he appeared,

he disappeared after accompanying the Mennonite missionary back to the port to retrieve the Ayers' passports.

The Mennonite man turned to thank the stranger for his kindness, but he was gone.

"They were standing together in an open area," Bert Ayers said.

"There was nowhere he could have gone; nothing he could have ducked behind."

"We're all convinced he was an angel," he explained.

Angel or not, "he came just in time and knew just where to go and what to do and then left," marveled Debbie Ayers.

"God was with us the whole way. I've always known that danger goes with the job of being a missionary and that we have to place our trust in God."

"This shows how big he is," she said.

NOBTS plans bivo meet

The annual Mid-South Bivocational Celebration, a weekend of renewal and fellowship for bivocational pastors and their spouses, will be held at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) in New Orleans on April 4-5.

Dean Doster, new executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will be the keynote speaker.

Dale Holloway of Florence (Miss.), national consultant for bivocational ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta, will discuss HMB support and resources.

Activities include a Friday evening banquet, conferences, worship, planning sessions,

ministers' wives sessions, and an optional riverboat cruise.

Cost of the weekend celebration is \$35, which includes registration, the Friday evening banquet, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

For more information or to register, contact NOBTS Office of Continuing Education, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Telephone: (800) 662-8701, ext. 3260.

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Coast churches set Easter celebration

Choir members from at least 19 Mississippi Gulf Coast churches will join Christian recording artist Babbie Mason at 7 p.m. on March 30 for a multi-denominational musical Easter celebration at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center on Highway 90 in Biloxi.

The event is the fourth in a series of racial reconciliation and spiritual awakening rallies that began last year along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Joint worship services are held every fifth Sunday to signify the unity of the coast's Christian churches.

The choir members, expected to number about 200, will

sing "Make Us One," a musical co-written and performed by Mason to encourage healing and understanding within the Christian church.

A dramatic portrayal of Jesus and the 12 disciples will accompany the musical performance, which will be enhanced by special lighting and other effects.

The worship service will also include a celebration of the Lord's Supper and the Ascension.

All Christian churches and individuals are invited to participate. For more information, contact Zeno Wells, minister of music at First Church, Gulfport, at (601) 863-8501.

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with the
Park Place Choir

April 6th
6:00 p.m.

Tickets:
\$8.00 in advance
& 10.00 at the door

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Nov. 2

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

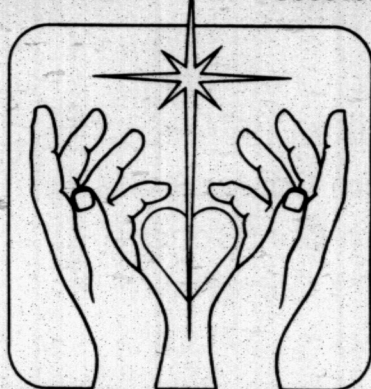
Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 27, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

MISSISSIPPI ACTEENS CONVENTION

Hand In Hand With God



Ramada Inn Convention Center
Tupelo, Miss.
April 18-19, 1997

Special Guests

- * Russell & Melinda Kyzar, missionaries
 - * Jan Turrentine, editor of Accent
 - * "Fishermen," Mississippi State BSU musicians
- Register by April 4, using the form below:

MAC Registration Form

Church/Association _____ Phone _____
Contact Person _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please attach a list with names of girls and leaders attending.

No. of Acteens/Leaders _____ x \$25/person = Total enclosed \$ _____
(Fee includes program fee, room and one meal.)

Mail checks made payable to WMU to:

MAC, WMU
P. O. Box 530



**Eleventh Annual
Mississippi Baptists in
Broadcasting Workshop**

April 18-19, 1997

Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

**Special Guests: Ted Baehr, Gary Underwood, and
Jack Johnson**

For more information, call Broadcast Services at
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800.

*In Christ:
Making a Difference*

1997
Senior Adult Retreats

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
Pass Christian

SPEAKERS:

Bill Baker
May 20-23

Keith Carpenter
May 26-28

John Yates
May 29-31

For more information,
please call the
Discipleship and
Family Ministry
Department of the
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board
at 1-800-748-1651
or 968-3800 in

*"A Time for
Extravagance....
In Worship,
In Ministry"*

**Mississippi Baptist
Secretaries
Conference**

April 7 & 8

**Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Miss.**

For more information, call the
Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries
Department at 1-800-748-1651.

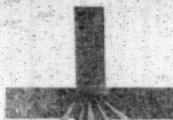
On these two pages you will find some general information about the assorted conferences being offered this summer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. We hope this short synopsis proves helpful to you and motivates you to want to know more about the conferences.

ABOUT GULFSHORE

Accommodations vary from rooms with two single beds to those with four bunk beds. Handicapped accommodations are available in all types of rooms. All rooms are equipped with private bath facilities, and each room has separately controlled heating and cooling units. Provisions for recreation include: beachfront swimming area, a multiple-use playing area for ball games, fishing, two tennis courts, and an olympic swimming pool.

If you see a conference that you are interested in attending and desire more information, please call the sponsoring department of the conference at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800, or contact the assembly manager at: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS, Phone (601) 452-7261.

Note: Mastercard and Visa can now be used to make reservations and for payment of bills at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.



**GULFSHORE
MUSIC LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

A conference designed with the leaders of your church's music program in mind. Come and learn new and unique ways of enlarging the music ministry where you serve.

Cost:	Registration: 10 a.m.
"A" Unit - \$84.30	Orientation: 12:45 p.m.
"C" Unit - \$78	Handbell Auditions: 3 p.m.



For 7th-12th graders

Your youth will learn songs and drama parts from The Ultimate Youth Choir Book, published by Word. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow spiritually and musically and to meet youth from all over the state.

GULFSHORE SCHEDULE 1997

May 20-23
May 24-26
May 26-28
May 29-31

I Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
Single Adult Conference (D&FM)
II Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
III Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)

June 2-6
June 6-10
June 10-14
June 14-18
June 19-23
June 23-27
June 27-July 1

I Youth Conference
II Youth Conference
III Youth Conference
IV Youth Conference
V Youth Conference
VI Youth Conference
HeartSong '97 (CM)

}

(MBCB)

July 1-5
July 5-9
July 10-12
July 12-17
July 17-19

Family Enrichment Conference (D&FM)
Young Musicians' Conference (CM)
Music Leadership Conference (CM)
I Centrifuge (BSSB)
I GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH
MISSIONS AND MINISTRY (MBCB)

July 19-24
July 24-26

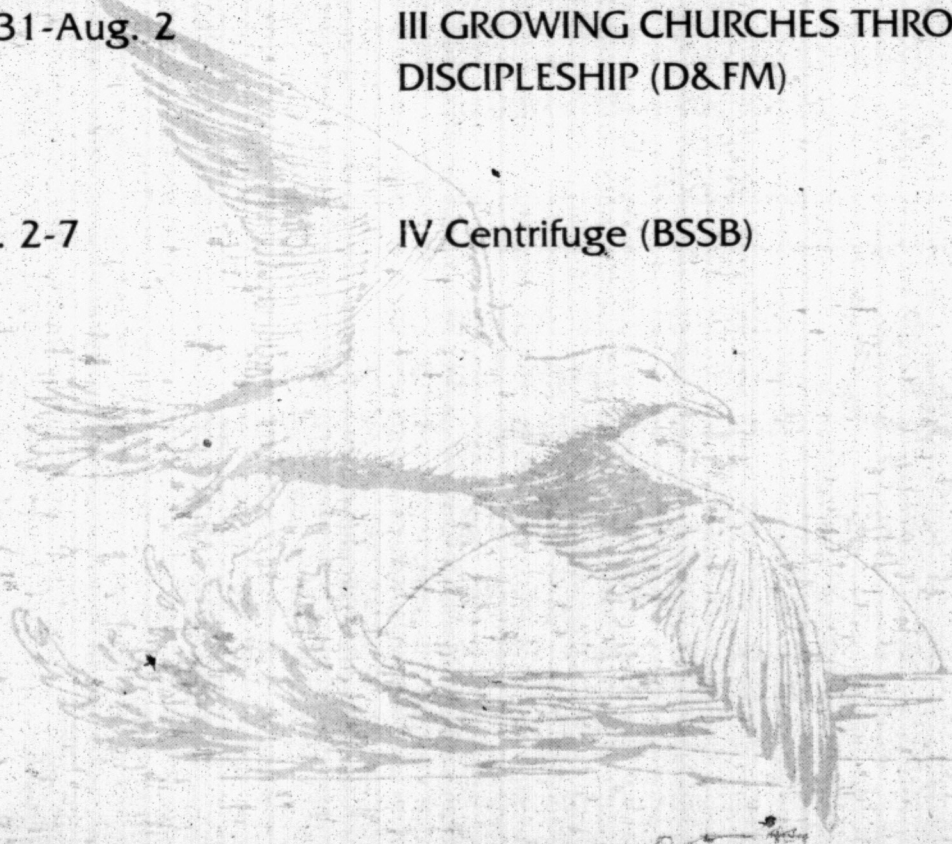
II Centrifuge (BSSB)
II GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH
BIBLE STUDY (MBCB)

July 24-26
July 26-31
July 31-Aug. 2

Church Media Library Conference (DBS)
III Centrifuge (BSSB)
III GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH
DISCIPLESHIP (D&FM)

Aug. 2-7

IV Centrifuge (BSSB)



1997 STATE SINGLES RETREAT

"Getting On Track"

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY • MAY 24 - 26

Conference Highlights

Conference Preacher:

Ron Hill, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, 11 years as minister with singles

Mini Concerts:

Renee S. Scheidt, China Grove, NC (three-time recording artist); Pam Bell, Bogalusa, La. (recording artist); and Paul Stupka, Tupelo, Miss. (contemporary recording artist)

Surf Sounds:

Vicki Pilecki, Greenwood, with guitar by Wayne Pinkerton, Greenville

Seafood Banquet Ice Cream Fellowship

T-Shirt

SUNDAY TRACK OPPORTUNITIES: New Orleans, Coastal Experiences, Canoeing, Ship Island, and much more!

COST

\$87.60 (Unit A - two in a room) \$81.30 (Unit C - four in a room)

SEND TO:

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571

1997 GROWING CHURCHES FOR Tomorrow

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Format That
Includes Three Great
Weekends To
Choose From!

2 An excellent opportunity for
your organizational leaders to
receive instruction in the latest
training methods and materials. Please encourage attendance at one, two, or all three
conferences.

3 July 17-19 • July 24-26 • July 31-Aug. 2

Discipling the Family

FAMILY ENRICHMENT WEEK

Family Conferences:

- "TeamKID" - Preschoolers/Children
- Mini-Centrifuge - Youth
- Couples
- Men's Ministry
- Single Parenting/Women's Ministry
- led by Pam Bell, Bogalusa, La.
- Power of Prayer - James Richardson

Family Perspectives

- Family Feud
- Unbound drama team from Hattiesburg
- Magic from the Battle family, Brandon
- Morning Watch
- Barbecue Supper
- Whole "free" day
- Ice cream and watermelon
fellowships

Registration: 1:30 p.m. (Tuesday, July 1)
Departure: 10 a.m. (Saturday, July 5)

Gulfshore Youth Weeks '97



As we follow Christ, we must be willing to go the distance if we are to become like Him.

CAMP DATE	CAMP PASTOR	CAMP MUSICIAN
June 2-6	James Lewis FBC, New Albany	Kevin Williams Columbus
June 6-10	Daniel Hawthorne FBC, Coffeeville	Kevin Williams Columbus
June 10-14	Greg Warnock Tate Street BC Corinth	Kevin Williams Columbus
June 14-18	Jason Bird Fifteenth Avenue BC Meridian	Heith Wilkinson Yazoo City
June 19-23	Rob Boyd FBC, Clinton	Kevin Williams Columbus
June 23-27	Gary Permenter Mt. Vernon BC Columbus	Kevin Williams Columbus

Purpose: To use creative Bible study, special interest studies, fun recreation, and evangelistic celebrations in a retreat setting to challenge youth to live for God.

Cost: \$128 per person. A \$30 deposit per person is required with registration. This is a Youth Camp experience your church can afford and it's as close as Mississippi Baptists' own Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian, Miss.

Registration: Begins on March 1, 1997. This should be sent to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. For registration information, call 601-452-7261.

Information: For program information, call Mark Lott or Jim Didlake at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

Young Musicians' Conference A Great Music Camp For Children

for those who have finished grades 4-6

Plan to send your children this summer for
an experience they will never forget.

The guest music director will be
Linda Boyd, choir coordinator, FBC, Atlanta,
and the camp pastor will be
Jerry Glass, pastor of Dry Creek BC,
Florence.

Be sure to register early!

Let's pray this day for...

March 28-April 10, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"Spirituality is the reward of supplication, but not necessarily of any other form of service. A man may preach and be unreal, but he cannot pray and be unreal, for the prayer that reaches heaven is a work of the Holy Spirit. True prayer begets in the heart love, peace, joy, patience, wisdom, trust, sincerity, courage, and compassion - indeed, all that is divine: so that whatever gains others may derive from our praying, we ourselves are most largely enriched."

- Method in Prayer by W. Graham

On Easter, we celebrate the good news of Jesus' victory over sin and death. As we celebrate new life in Christ pray that we will obey His command to take the good news about Him to all people.

Former International Service Corps workers, Dennis and Becky Walker, are to arrive back in Gaza as career workers in the fall. Give praise for this couple's answer to God's work in their lives as He has drawn them to the Palestinian people.

Fierce spiritual warfare is taking place in Malaysia as Satan tries to close and lock all doors of opportunity for the Malay people to hear and respond to the gospel. Ask the Lord to set before the Malay people an open door of free access to the gospel message.

For the State Secretaries Conference; Camp Garaywa; 10 am, 7th-4 pm, 8th; sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries.

Pray that missionaries George and Beth Wilson will be able to extend their visas (their permission to live in New Zealand) through May 20, when they will begin their final furlough before retirement. They are working with a number of people who are open to the gospel.

Praise the Lord that Dr. Sramila, a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, India, gave her life to Jesus and was recently baptized. Pray that through her witness, her high-caste family will also realize who Jesus is and believe.

Pray for the melting down of the walls in the hearts of Muslims against God's love in Egypt.

The 40,000,000 Punjabis in Pakistan have had little or no opportunity to hear the truth about God's love. In recent months, the Lord has miraculously opened a door for witness. Pray that God will call out people to enter this door to share the light of God's love with these people.

Pray for the Reconciliation Seminar; Lee Baptist association office, Tupelo, 7 pm, 3rd-noon, 4th; sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration.

Baptist representatives, Brett and Donna Freeman and their three children, Chelsea, Alexander and Eric, live in Kathmandu, Nepal. Brett teaches computer science at Kathmandu University. Ask God to give Brett and Donna proficiency in the Nepali language and increased opportunities to effectively share the truth with inquirers.

Pray that the 393,811 people baptized in Southern Baptist churches during 1996 will be disciplined and become mature Christians.

There were 1,458 new Southern Baptist churches started in the United States during 1996. Pray that they will have a strong Christian influence in the areas where they are located.

28

29

For Youth Musicians Choral Adjudication; FBC, Clinton, 7-9 pm; sponsored by the Church Music Department. For the Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore Assembly; 7 pm, 4th-10:30 am, 6th, sponsored by Department of Student Work.

For the State Young Musicians Choral Festival; Mississippi College; 8:45 am-1:30 pm; sponsored by the Church Music Department. For Regional "Teaching With Vision" Conferences; Calvary BC, Tupelo; FBC, Holly Springs/N. Greenwood BC, Greenwood; 9 am-noon; sponsored by the Bible Study Team.



Gordon and Donna Alford musical duo, Vancleave



Marvinna Hooper FMB, Honduras



Marjean Patterson WMU executive director MBCB



PUT SOME SIZZLE IN YOUR SUMMER!

WOMAN'S WEEKENDER!

June 26-30, 1997

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Cost: \$289

(covers transportation on motorcoach, two nights lodging at Holiday Inn, and your room and board at Ridgecrest)

The weekender, for women only, will provide three special days of Bible study, prayer, ministry ideas, personal spiritual growth conferences, missions encounters, music, and fellowship. Featured guests will include Christian music artist Karla Worley, author and speaker Barbara Joiner, and popular speaker and writer Rhonda Kelley.

To reserve your place at this first ever Woman's Weekender, your name and a \$100 deposit is due by April 1, 1997.

For more information, contact Jan Cossitt in the WMU office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

April 11-12, 1997

4 p.m., Friday - noon, Saturday

Cost: \$50 - lodging, three meals; \$35 - meals only; \$20 - no meals, no lodging

Limited rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Full refunds until March 11 (transferable registrations only thereafter).

Mail to: WMU Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571

Registration

Church/Association _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. of women _____ x cost per person _____ = total enclosed \$ _____

HOUSE TOPS

HCC revival results in 22 faith professions

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

A campus revival at Holmes Community College (HCC), Goodman, resulted in 22 professions of faith and 30 rededications, according to Gary Jackson of Sturgis-based Harvesting Ministries, evangelist for the Feb. 24-26 crusade.

The spiritual emphasis week was hosted by the HCC Baptist Student Union (BSU) and co-sponsored by the BSU, local businessmen, Harvesting Ministries, and several local churches, said Michael Kelly, BSU director at HCC.

Each night, a different college singing group was featured.

On Monday, the Praise Band from Mississippi State University BSU in Starkville led in worship.

On Tuesday, the 42-voice Hinds Community College

Utica Campus Choir presented a 30-minute concert.

Wednesday evening featured the HCC choir.

Kelly praised Jackson for his willingness to give time to preparing the students for revival.

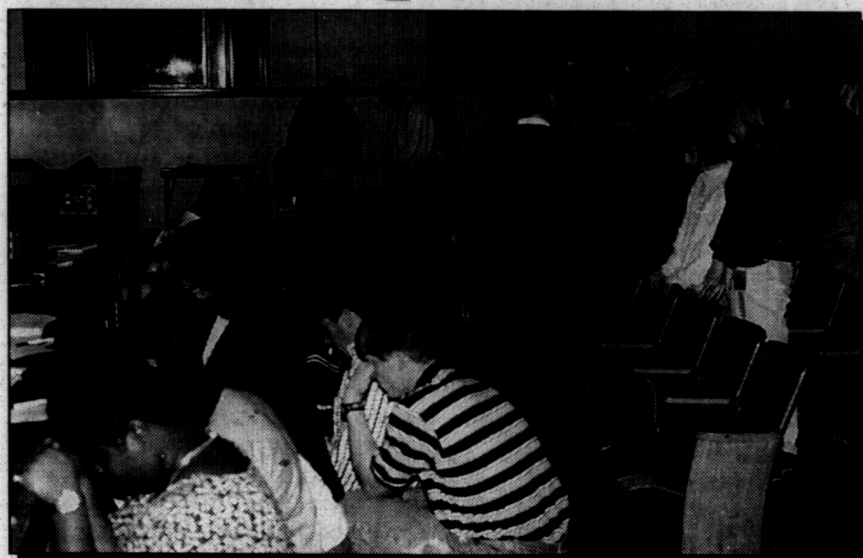
"He came to the campus and led a witnessing seminar for our students," Kelly said. "We had one girl saved from that experience."

Another unique aspect was bringing together Christian students from other campuses.

"It was great to see God using students from other campuses in our worship services."

"Students began to reach out to other students, recognizing their need to accept Christ as savior. Gary Jackson did a great job," Kelly said.

HCC BSU is a ministry of the Student Work Department of the Mississippi Baptist Con-



SEEKING THE LORD — Students kneel at the altar during the invitation given at the campus revival at Holmes Community College in Goodman on Feb. 24-26. (BR special photo)

vention Board (MBCB).

For more information on BSU and student work contact Jerry Merriman, MBCB Student Work

Director, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

1997 Miss. Bible Drills set around state in April

1997 Bible Drills will take place in 12 locations around the state during the month of April.

More than 3,000 children and youth participate each year in the drills, administered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM).

Dates, times, and locations are:

◆ April 14, 3-4:30 p.m.: First Church, Gulfport; and

First Church, Senatobia.

◆ April 15, 3-4:30 p.m.: First Church, McComb; and First Church, Greenwood.

◆ April 17, 3-4:30 p.m.: First Church, Tupelo; and First Church, Saltillo.

◆ April 18, 3-4:30 p.m.: First Church, Starkville; and Calvary Church, Starkville.

◆ April 19, 1:30-3 p.m.: First Church, Clinton; and Woodland

Hills Church, Jackson.

◆ April 21, 3-4:30 p.m.: First Church, Hattiesburg; and First Church, Meridian.

The Youth Selection Tournament, for young people in the seventh through the ninth grades who scored superior at the drills, will take place at 1 p.m. on April 26 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

There will also be a scholarship drill that day for seniors who have participated in state Bible Drills for nine years.

Baptist-affiliated colleges participating in the scholarship drill are Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, William Carey

College in Hattiesburg, and Mississippi College in Clinton.

For more information, contact DFM at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Colo. requests continue

◆ Project 123: North La Junta Church needs help in purchasing and refurbishing a building and 9.23 acres of land. Response is needed by May 1, 1997. Contact Pastor Brad Collins, 1321 Cimarron, La Junta, CO 81050, or call (719) 384-8444.

◆ Project 124: Calvary Church in Monte Vista, CO wants help in constructing a 50 x 60 foot addition, all wood construction. Starting date is June

1, 1997. For more information contact Pastor Richard Nettles, P.O. Box 247, Monte Vista, CO 81144, or call (719) 852-3401 or (719) 852-5690.

For more information on Mississippi Partnership Projects contact Bill Hardy, Partnership Coordinator, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson 800-748-1651.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (While church membership is not required, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Correction

On page four of the March 20 issue, the time for the April 2 performance of the Southern Seminary Choir at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, was incorrectly listed by the seminary as 7 p.m. The correct time is 6 p.m.

SEEKING TENN. BSU ALUMS

Editor:

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) ministry in Southern Baptist life. I am nearing completion of my research into the history of BSU work in Tennessee and will soon begin writing. If any readers are alumni of any of Tennessee BSU and are willing to share written testimonies, Xerox copies of articles, or photography, please contact me at 619 N. Tennessee Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37130 or call (615) 893-5035.

Charles L. Nored
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

PAUL SETS HOMECOMING

Editor:

Paul Church, Scobey, is planning a Homecoming Day in June. The homecoming committee is trying to locate all former members and staff members.

We want to extend a personal invitation to each of these along with their families to be with us on this day.

In order to receive a personal invitation, please call the church at (601) 647-3034 or write to Paul Church, P. O. Box 125, Scobey, MS 38953.

Abbie F. Cox
Scobey

ALA. PLANNING REUNION

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists who served as summer missionaries through Alabama Baptist Student Unions and Campus Ministries are invited to attend the program's 50th anniversary reunion April 26 at Green Valley Church in Birmingham.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by a reception sponsored by the Birmingham Association Woman's Missionary Union.

Although the event recognizes the work of former summer missionaries, others also may attend.

If you plan to come, please call the Campus Ministries Department of the Baptist State Board of Missions toll-free at (800) 264-1225.

A nursery will be provided for pre-school children. Please register your children when you call.

David Reid
Montgomery, Ala.

STANDING TOGETHER

Editor:

We read and hear it more and more: "Come and be a part of our group or church, we accept all denominations." Many use the words of Jesus recorded in John 17:11, 20-23 to prove their point in the matter. But is that what Jesus said?

Jesus prayed for a oneness of spirit. He was not praying for outward organic union. The Father and the Son are distinct personalities within the Godhead, but in their relationship as one they enjoy the unity of spirit and love. It was this for which Jesus prayed with respect to his disciples.

This does not mean the union of all churches under one creed, one government, one form of worship. This would be the worse thing that could happen to the spiritual life of the churches.

Christ alone can bring spiritual unity among believers in him. Bible teachings are always overlooked by those in a rush to get everybody together. Christians are well advised to steer clear of ecumenical endeavors whenever, wherever, and with whomever they appear.

What union we have must be based on a unity of convictions about the truth of God's Word. Not superficial union, but for a standing together based upon eternal truth.

Jim Burke
Waynesboro

COUNTRY IN A MESS

Editor:

"Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." James 5:17.

God's precious word teaches us from Genesis to Revelation how powerful prayer is in the mouth of the believer, but how many of us are praying for our leaders, judges, and law enforcement? Jesus tells us through the apostle Paul in I Tim. 2:2 that we are to do this so that we will lead peaceable lives.

We are in a mess in our great country. Corruption in govern-

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ment, crack cocaine killing our children, as well as the terrible TV programs teaching sex and violence.

In a Baptist program I heard that the United States was only about third in the world with the number of Christians. We need help.

We need people praying earnestly. We need laborers for the harvest. The harvest is ripe but who will go?

I challenge you to pray with me. I don't want my six-year-old daughter on crack and I don't want your children on it. Please pray without ceasing. Believe me, I know what it can do. I see it daily.

Kenneth Patterson
New Augusta

MARRY INSIDE BELIEF

Editor:

I noticed in the March 6 (issue) the letter to the editor, "Races not to be mixed."

I go with that. It goes against the Holy Word. Lev. 21:13-15 says you will take (as) your wife a virgin from your own people. When God made this world and the people, it was his will each spouse would be a virgin when married — only death to part them. Fornication is the only excuse on Earth for divorce. According to that, it's wrong for black and white to have babies together (in) my opinion. We are all God's creation, brothers and sisters in Christ (but) I believe God intended for races and church denominations not to marry outside their beliefs.

Paul H. Chadwick
Jayess

READ ALL OVER WORLD

Editor:

It's gratifying to know that "The Baptist Record" is read all over the world.

A letter came from Togo, West Africa, asking for the booklets on the "International Friendship Family program" plan.

The writer, Dumenya K. Iba David explained, "These will help us to better understand internationals in our country who come from a different culture. We read about you and your ministry with internationals in 'The Baptist Record' of August 22, 1996."

Charles and Indy Whitten
Clinton

WALNUT GROVE TO MEET

Editor:

Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, is planning a homecoming in September.

It will be the 150th anniversary. We would like to locate all former members and pastors and invite them to the celebration.

Please take the time to write us and let us know what the church has meant to you in the past or some event that had special meaning for you while you were here.

We would also like to have any pictures that you might have taken while you were here. We will return them to you.

Send information and pictures to the History Committee, P. O. Box 182 Walnut Grove, MS 39189.

Jayne Britt
Walnut Grove

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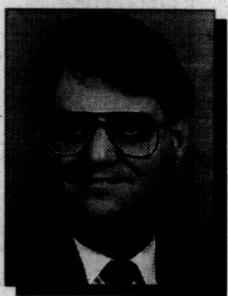
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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Michael Harris, pianist, is now living in Brookhaven, having returned to Mississippi to care for his ailing mother. He recently performed at Carnegie Hall, New York City, at a gala celebrating the world of fine arts. Harris is available for engagements. He can be contacted at P. O. Box 3485, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or call (601) 835-0839.



Harris

Shiloh Church, Marion Association, held Deacon Ordination service for Roger Sullivan on Feb. 23. Mack Carney is pastor.

Moody Adams will conduct two 2-hour seminars at

Leesburg Church, Morton, April 7 and 8. The seminar on Monday is "End time prophesy" and on Tuesday, "How to rear teenagers without frustration." Both seminars will begin at 6:45 p.m. "The Tuesday seminar will be beneficial to everyone even if there are no present or future teenagers in your home," said Odus Jackson, pastor. For more information call (601) 854-5306.

Babbie Mason, WORD recording artist and songwriter, will perform Heritage of Faith concert at New Orleans Seminary as a special event for women, April 3, at 7 p.m. For more information, call (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3260.

Anne Washburn McWilliams, 39 years on the staff of "The Baptist Record," Jackson, was presented Mississippi Media Professionals

highest honor for 1996, "Communicator of Achievement." A native of LaFayette, Ala., McWilliams lives in Clinton. The award was made at the 50th anniversary of Mississippi Media Professionals, March 7-8, held at Old Waverly Golf and Country Club, West Point. McWilliams will compete in June for the national title at the 60th anniversary of the National Federation of Press Women in St. Paul, Minn., June 19-21.



McWilliams

James W. Duke has complet-

ed his autobiography, "The Preacher and Pauline." Duke received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He served for 40 years in the ministry in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. "The Preacher and Pauline" sells for \$6. Duke and his wife Pauline may be contacted at P.O. Box 1969, Hamilton, AL 35570 or call (205) 921-9019.

John Ed Snell celebrated his 20th anniversary with Utica Church, Utica, on March 16. He also pastored Utica Church in 1967-1969.



Fellowship Church, Starkville, recently ordained **Jerry Dennis** as deacon. Pictured (from left) are J. E. Sims, pastor, and Dennis.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College Theatre will present "Reckless" by Craig Lucas as the final production of its 1996-97 season. Performances are at 8 p.m. on April 10-12. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221. Regular admission is \$6, while the cost for non-Carey students is \$3.

The characters of **Winnie-the-Pooh** will come to life on the Garrett stage April 9-12 as the spring production of Blue Mountain College's Theatre Program.

The production is based on a dramatization of A. A. Milne's work by Kristin Sergel. Performances will be April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and April 12 at 2 p.m. For ticket information and reservations, call (601) 685-4771 ext. 31.

A **Lecture Series for Women Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century** will be presented at a Women's Lecture and Lunch Series on April 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mississippi College. Registration per person is \$60 before April 9. To register or for additional information contact Jesse Murphree at the Office of Continuing Education, (601) 925-3263.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will present the 10th Annual Briefing for Secretaries and Administrative Assistants lecture series, a live interactive teleconference on April 23, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The fee is \$60 per person, including lunch. To register or for additional information contact Jesse Murphree at (601) 925-3263.



Kenny Carver, pastor of Christ Church, Greenwood, was ordained on Feb. 16. **Larry Edwards**, pastor of First Church, Tchula, preached the service. **George Meadows**, pastor of Immanuel Church, Greenwood, served as moderator. Pictured, from left, are Edwards and Carver.

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MISSIONARY NEWS

Danny and Libby Panter, Baptist representatives in Europe, are on the field (address: Berliner Strasse 275, D-65205, WI-Erbenheim, Germany). He serves as associate to area director for Europe. He is a native of Pascagoula, and she is the former Libby Wallace of Jackson.

REVIVAL RESULTS

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: March 2-5; 17 professions of faith; Alan Celoria and family singers, evangelist and music; Isom Hill, pastor.

Church 'marketing' gets message across

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Effective marketing strategies for churches "get the right message to the right person at the right time," public relations specialist John Manlove told a group of Baptist ministers and lay leaders.

Church "marketing" is the task of getting the church's message to unchurched people in the community, explained Manlove, president of Manlove Advertising and Public Relations in Pasadena, Texas.

The right message makes the prospective church member want to visit the church, Manlove said.

He compared that strategy to advertising that brings shoppers into a store rather than door-to-door sales.

People who come into a store are much more likely to buy a product than someone who is interrupted at home by a traveling salesperson, he said.

Similarly, people who will

visit a church are much better prospects than people interrupted at home by door-to-door visitation.

The "right message" needs to have several elements, Manlove insisted.

First, it must be personal, he said. The message should use words such as "you" and "me," he added, urging participants to write outreach materials as if they were one-on-one dialogue with the prospect.

The right message also needs to be emotional. "Passion drives people," he said.

The message must be relevant, he stressed. "Think about who you're trying to reach and what matters to them," he said.

The message must be unique, Manlove said. "Promote what's special about your church," he urged.

A church trying to reach baby boomers and promoting its children's ministry might want to plan an event, such as

a children's fair or celebration, he said.

Manlove praised direct-mail as the best outreach medium for most churches.

By carefully choosing where the pieces are to be mailed and planning a multiple-mailing strategy in advance, a church with even limited funds can maximize the number of strong, repetitive messages it sends to its prospects, he said.

On the contrary, television and radio ads are so expensive only the largest churches can afford to use them effectively, Manlove said.

Billboards can be fairly effective at frequently placing a message before a targeted audience, he said. Door-to-door contact is very time-consuming and difficult. Telephoning is better, but timing of calls can be a problem, he added.

"Timing is everything," he said of church marketing.

Marketing messages must be sent and received repeatedly, he noted, stressing, "Once is not enough."

That's why a church that markets its message must commit itself to the strategy over a period of time, Manlove declared.

"I don't think there can be too much repetition of your message. ...

"We've got the greatest product in the world. We need to market it in a way that will be understandable and appealing to people."

Manlove presented his marketing workshop to participants in the innovative church track of the 1997 Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

REVIVAL DATES

Valley Grove, Tupelo: April 2-6; 7 nightly; church-wide fellowship between Sunday services; Desi Ginn, Southaven, evangelist; Sunday night, Gospel Ship, music.

Concord, Yazoo City: April 3-5; 7 p.m. nightly; Rickey Blythe, Flora, evangelist; Henry Kirk, Concord Church, music; James Garner, pastor.

Trinity, Laurel: April 6-9; 40th anniversary; homecoming, April 6, Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m., noon lunch, and 1:30 p.m. singing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Fant, former pastor, Hampton, Va., evangelist; Wayne Meeks, former minister of music, Waynesboro, music; A. Harrison Weger, pastor.

Newhebron (Lawrence): April 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne VanHorn, Columbia, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; Charles E. Davis Sr., pastor.

Noxapater (Winston): April 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Knox, Columbus, evangelist; David Sumner, Noxapater Church, music; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

First, Magee: April 13-16; 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, Albany, La., evangelist; Kevin Hand, pastor.

Fellowship, Starkville: April 20-23; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Henry Freeman, Runnelstown, evangelist; J. E. Sims, pastor.

Commission Road, Long Beach: March 30-April 2; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; meal following the service; Paul Tsika, evangelist; Mike and Brandy Nier, music.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Ingram Church, Prentiss County, honored its deacons on Deacon Appreciation Sunday. Pictured, bottom row, from left, are Ted Crawford, Johnny Hall, Rickey Heavner, Ronnie Boatright, Eugene Ashmore, Bobby Aldridge, Freddie Ashmore, and Bobby Carr. Top row, Dennis Garner, Bobby Conwill, Eugene Gamble, (chairman) Jerrod Cagle, Lee Crawford, Dennis Meek, and Howard Crawford. Not pictured, Booker Starling, James Stanton, and Malvern Williams. Clayton Little John is pastor.

Pilgrimage, April 11-13. For more information, call (601) 369-9366.

Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Ascension will be presented by the adult choir of Bissell Church, Tupelo. Performances will be on March 29 at 7:30 p.m. and March 30 at 10 a.m.

New Orleans Seminary will host an old-fashioned Sacred Harp Sing on April 1 in the Sellers Music Building on campus. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a traditional dinner-on-the-grounds. For more information, contact the Office of Church Music Ministries, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858; or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3226.

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will host Wayne Watson in concert on April 4 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at all area Christian book stores or

through the church office. For ticket information, call (601) 956-5000.

Alive! A celebration of the Living Lord will be presented at Newhebron Church, Lawrence Association, 6:30 p.m. on March 29 and 30. Charles E. Davis Sr. is pastor. David Henderson is minister of music.

God So Loved The World will be performed at Wynndale Church, Terry, on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. and March 30 at 7 p.m. The adult choir is directed by Lew King.

Easter Sunrise Service, Celebration in the Cemetery, will be held at Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, March 30, at 5:30 a.m. Persons who wish to eat breakfast following the service will need to call the church office (601) 287-2764, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



GAs and mothers (pictured) from Green's Creek Church, Petal, attended the GA Mother-Daughter Weekend at Camp Garaywa, March 7-8. Janet Hamm is GA director. Michael C. Routon is pastor.

First Church, Richland, will present the Easter musical and drama, "All Hail King Jesus", on March 30 at 7 p.m.

First Church, Aberdeen, will observe its 160th anniversary, homecoming, and burning of the note for the Family Life Center, April 13. Covered dish lunch will be served at noon. This is also the weekend of the 22nd annual Aberdeen

LIFE AND WORK Celebration

Matthew 28:1-20

By Thad Moore

Someone wisely said, "If Christ didn't rise from the dead, nothing matters. If Christ rose from the dead, nothing else matters." As Christians we know Christ rose from the dead and is alive today. Therefore we celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday with enthusiasm and joy.

A Reason to Celebrate (28:1-6). At dawn on the first day of the week, the two Marys went to the tomb and found it empty. A violent earthquake occurred, attesting to the importance of the events. After the earthquake an angel appeared to the women and told them not to be afraid. Then the angel told the

women that Jesus was not in the tomb, he had risen from the dead. There was no need to look for a dead body in a place full of life.

Thomas Arnold wrote: "The resurrection is the best attested fact in history." Edward Clark, an English attorney stated,

"As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidence for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. Inference follows on evidence, and a truthful witness is always artless and disdains affect. The



Moore

Gospel evidence for the resurrection is of this class, and as a lawyer I accept it unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate."

The proof of the resurrection is available to all who will trust Christ.

A Message to Tell (28:7-10). The women were given further directions. They were told to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. They left with mixed emotions. They were still somewhat fearful, but they were filled with joy that Christ had done what he promised.

As the women were on the way to tell the disciples the good news they met Jesus. They clasped his feet and worshiped him, the only appropriate response to the one who has conquered death. Jesus told them not to fear and for them to finish the

task of telling the disciples what had happened.

In this text, like so many others, we see the compassion of Jesus. He revealed himself to women. Women were second class citizens in those days. Christ called the disciples brothers. These brothers were the same people who had left him at his point of greatest need. He was willing to forgive them and restore them to places of leadership in the early church. He used them to change the world with the same message.

A Mission to Fulfill (28:16-20). Since Christ rose from the dead, we may ask, what is our responsibility. He gives us the answer in what we commonly call the great commission. We are to go and make disciples. The word go in the original language is in participle form, meaning as you go make disciples. The verb for making disciples is an imperative, meaning

that believers are to make disciples of those they reach.

A disciple is a person who acknowledges Christ and follows him no matter what the cost. They are baptized in his name and are willing to be taught his commands. Once they are taught, they obey his teachings. Discipleship is a life long process, not a one time decision.

Unfortunately many Christians see these verses as an option or suggestion. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christ expects all believers to be actively making disciples. Churches need to be sure this is their focus. There is an old fable that tells of Christ after he ascended into heaven. He is asked what are your plans for the disciples. He responds by saying, "I gave them the great commission." The angels ask, "What if they do not obey?" Jesus replies, "I have no other plan."

Moore is pastor, First Church, Holly Springs.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be involved

Matthew 28:1-7, 16-20

By Mark Long

One of the greatest evidences for the resurrection is the changed lives of the disciples after Jesus appeared to them. After Christ's death, the disciples cowered in fear for their lives. After the resurrection they boldly ministered in the name of Christ despite persecution.

What makes the difference in an involved and uninvolved disciple of Christ? Christ's resurrection demonstrates that he truly does hold all authority in heaven and on earth. Acceptance of this kind of Lord compels us to obedience and active involvement in kingdom work.

An Amazing Miracle (28:1-4). Today we speak of Christ's presence in our worship services. We speak of Christ living in our hearts. These are true, but not what is meant in the gospels concerning Christ's resurrection. Part of the foundation of the church is that on the third day Christ rose from the grave bodily.

Matthew describes the event as a divine act. The earth shook (an Old Testament image for God's presence). An angel appeared and rolled the stone away (God's messenger). The angel radiated light (the shekinah glory of God). The guards



Long

were afraid of the angels (the customary response of a human to God's messengers).

Christ's bodily resurrection was from the very heart of God. Interestingly, the women went simply to look at the tomb. They witnessed Christ's body being placed in the tomb. They came to mourn the loss of a great man; but God did the unexpected. He rose Christ from the grave in the flesh.

Some Good News (28:5-7). The angel delivered his message to the women. Christ was alive. "Sure he was crucified and died, but he told you he would rise again!" The empty tomb was evidence of Christ's resurrection. The possibility must have overwhelmed the women. "Could this be true?" "He did say he would rise, didn't he?"

"The angel. The tomb. It must be true."

With the realization of the good news of Christ's resurrection came responsibility for the women. The angel commissioned the women to be the first witnesses of the resurrected Christ. They were to go and tell the disciples of the resurrection, and what they should do — meet Jesus in Galilee. The angels' words, "Behold, I have told you," placed the responsibility of the sharing of the message on the women's shoulders.

Like the women, we also are given that same responsibility to be involved in kingdom work. We have received the good news. Now we must share the good news.

The Great Commission (28:16-20). Jesus appeared to the disciples in Galilee. Some worshiped, others doubted. Seeing can aid belief, but the

deeper meaning of the gospels is that believing leads to seeing. Imagine the extreme difficulty of seeing a loved one die, attending the funeral, and then seeing her again on the street a few days later. Miracles can't produce faith, but faith can produce miracles.

For those who believe, there is a commission. Christianity is not about kicking back and waiting for death to enjoy eternal life. Following Christ is about obedience. Christ has all authority. He commanded his followers to make disciples at home and abroad. We are to teach others to be obedient just as we are.

If we truly believe in Christ's resurrection, we are compelled to be obedient, and thus to be involved in kingdom work as he commanded.

Long is pastor, First Church, Perkinston.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

We have hope!

Matt. 28:1-10; I Thes. 4:13-18

By Mary Ellen Powell

How many times do you feel that situations in your life are beyond hope? The resurrection of Christ tells us that there is hope, even in death.

The Empty Tomb (Matthew 28:1-4). The tomb symbolizes much to those who know Christ: victory, power, and hope. But we can only experience these things if we know Christ. To come to know Christ, or to become a Christian, we must first realize that we are sinful. In Romans 3:23, we are told that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 5:8 reveals the hope God gives as it says, "But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died

for us." Romans 6:23 shows us that "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." Thus, our sin has doomed us to eternal separation from God. But God loves us and has provided in Christ the way to escape death. Romans 10:9 tells us, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved." This brings us to the empty tomb. Only the God who rolled away the stone and defeated death has the power to forgive us of our sins, provide for us eternal life, and give our lives hope.

The Angel's Message (28:5-7). The angel's message offers



Powell

many things that help us in our daily lives. It first offers courage in the face of fear. It gives encouragement that God anticipates what we are searching for and aggressively works to meet our needs. The message states simply the hope that we have in knowing that Christ triumphed over death. God meets the women's needs for physical answers to their questions as evidence is offered to them in the form of the empty tomb. God meets us in the same manner today, to assure us and lead us further in our walk with him. But, when all is said and done, we are given the responsibility to tell others of the mighty things that God does for us. We are to "go quickly and tell" others of the hope that comes only through Christ. We do not carry his message into the world under our own strength, God goes ahead of us always preparing the way as we follow him.

The Risen Lord (28:8-10). The women left the angel and ran to tell the disciples "afraid, yet filled with joy." There is an exhilaration that comes from following the commands of Christ, but with it often comes fearful anticipation of what the outcome will be. In these times of following Christ, he appears to us through his Word, through answered prayer, through the testimonies of fellow Christians, and through the presence of the Holy Spirit. He always urges us forward in the adventure of following him.

Basis for Christian Hope (I Thessalonians 4:13-14). Christians can draw hope from God's promises for this life and from the hope that transcends this life. Separation from loved ones who were believers is hard and we mourn our loss, but there is great hope even in their passing. Only as believers can we be assured that because of Christ's resurrection all believers will spend eternity with him.

Hope for Living and Dead Believers (4:15-17). Our world is full of hopeless people who believe the "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die" philosophy. For the believer, this world is not the end it is only the beginning. Christ came that we might have abundant life on earth and died that death would be conquered by his victory. This hope for today and for eternity is guaranteed to those who believe in Christ.

Comfort One Another (4:18). With these victorious, hopeful thoughts in mind, we are to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our encouragement in these thoughts should be especially directed toward those who have lost loved ones, but we must remember to administer this encouragement with great sensitivity. Ask God to guide your words and actions as you minister to those who are mourning.

Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Kid's Page

Author says parents should teach prayer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — It's never too early to start teaching your children to pray, according to the author of a new book on the subject.

Betty Cloyd, a lay minister in the United Methodist church and wife of a retired Methodist minister, is author of "Children and Prayer: A Shared Pilgrimage." She talked about the book during the Baptist Center for Ethics "Family Summit" March 17.

"What age should you begin teaching children to pray? Before the child is born," she said. "You should begin praying out loud for the child in the womb."

Teaching children to pray is one way to overcome the "spiritual poverty" of American children, Cloyd said. Unlike economic poverty, spiritual poverty crosses all classes of children, she said.

American parents must reclaim their place as the primary source of spiritual nurture for their children, Cloyd said.

In recent decades, this role has been wrongly abdicated to

the "professionals" at churches, she explained.

Cloyd said she began work on her book after hearing from many parents who wanted to teach their children to pray but didn't know how.

"I want to teach my children to pray, but I don't know how myself," one mother told her.

Cloyd tells children prayer is "using your own words to speak with and listen to God at any time, at any place about anything."

She offered these additional suggestions for parents:

◆ "Remember to call out your child's name in prayer."

It's important for children to hear their parents pray for them specifically, by name, she said.

◆ Establish a pattern of prayer at specific times every day, such as at meal times or bedtime.

◆ Remember that children learn by imitation. "They learn best by seeing our lives of prayer. Children learn far more from what they see us do than from what we say."



◆ Teach children to pray in their own words.

◆ Encourage older children to find their own special places of prayer at home.

◆ Teach children to pray the "great prayers of our faith," such as the Lord's Prayer.

◆ Help children to understand that God answers prayer — sometimes with a yes, sometimes with a no, and other times with a "wait a while."

◆ Demonstrate to children that prayer leads to action.

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Amy Chandler and I am 12 years old. My hobbies are basketball, swimming, and reading. I also love listening to music. It doesn't matter if you are a boy or a girl, but please be between 12 to 15 years old. It would help if you also loved horses. Send a picture if you can.

Please write to:

1280 Cr 107

New Albany, MS 38652

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hello, my name is Emily Griffing. I am nine years old and in the third grade. I would like to have a Pen Pal to write and exchange letters with. I enjoy swimming, watching TV, and reading.

Please write to:

248 Daniel Lake Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39212

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Melissa Reynolds. I go to Grenada Elementary School. I am 8 years old and I am in the third grade. I go to Friendship Baptist Church. My birthday is July 23. I like playing with toys and I like playing with my cousins.

Please write to:

827 Sundown Rd.

Grenada, MS 38901

PEN PAL CLUB



Bibliocipher

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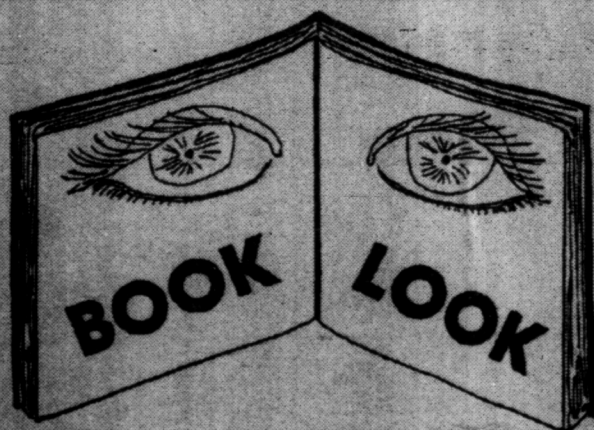
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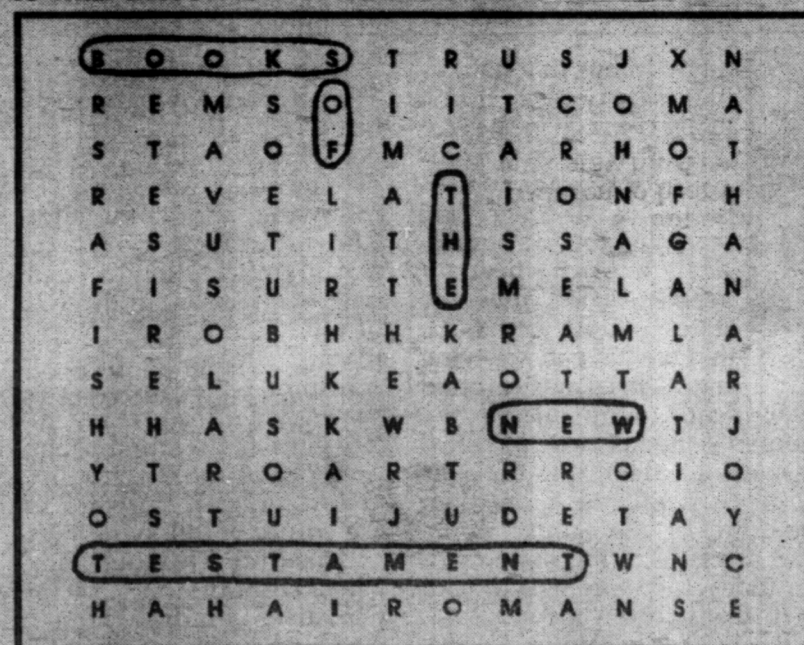
MKNAMR-ENE

Clue: X equals L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eight Thirty-Eight.



Read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally to find these New Testament books:



Acts
Galatians
Revelation
Titus

John
Matthew
Luke
Mark

Jude
Hebrews
James
Romans

Source: Big Book of Bible Games and Puzzles by Joy MacKenzie and Shirley Bledsoe. (Zondervan, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbover, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can my husband love me and not trust me? I have never cheated on him, but he makes me feel like a harlot.

The Bible teaches women to submit to husbands, but my husband is not a godly man. Will God still accept me?

Step back and study your husband's situation to understand why such doubts and fears are controlling him. Does he trust anyone? What was his parents' relationship when he was growing up? Was one of them sexually unfaithful to the other? Does he have good friends who have been traumatized by infidelity? Is he misreading some innocent action on your part because of his insecurities? Stay involved in his life and affirm him whenever you can. He needs to know that you are still as interested in him as ever — even though this may be difficult when he is always on your case. Remember that his defensiveness is probably due to some deeply-held fear of which you may not be aware. Talk with him about these issues. If you can't break through, encourage him to talk with an objective third party, such as a Christian counselor, who can assist both of you.

God's acceptance of us is not based on our relationship to a spouse, parent, or even the church. It is based on our personal relationship to his Son, Jesus Christ. God accepts us when we personally acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives. You are not at fault for your husband's lack of godliness; that is his responsibility. When you choose to submit to your husband, you are honoring God (Eph. 5:22) and not your husband. This is your spiritual service in obedience to your Lord, but you are also not to be used as a doormat. If you are Mormon, then it is your belief that a woman cannot find God's acceptance without her husband. Search the Scriptures for yourself. Seek the counsel of God and the guidance of a non-Mormon pastor or Christian counselor. The truth will be revealed to you (John 8:31-32).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.